

Remarks:

Initially, applicant notes that this application was originally filed by the named inventor Pro Se. A Power of Attorney and Correspondence Address Indication form (PTO/SB/81) has been filed herewith, appointing practitioners associated with Customer Number 34,170, including the undersigned, to prosecute the above-identified application.

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted concurrently with a reply to a Notice to File Corrected Application Papers. In the Notice, applicant was required to, among other things, satisfy supplemental fees problems. In particular, the as-filed application contained two (2) extra Independent claims. The foregoing preliminary amendment cancels all of the prior claims, and adds one new claim.

In a telephone conversation, on August 31, 2004, with Ms. Stokes of the Initial Patent Examination Division, the undersigned was advised that this preliminary amendment should properly be submitted along with the aforementioned reply to the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this preliminary amendment prior to examination on the merits.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 8-31-2004



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Substitute Specification (Marked-Up Version)

Description

Lounge Chair Having A Combination Breast-Accommodating And Loose Item Storage Cavity

Background of the Invention

[1.] **Field of the Invention**

[0001] The present invention relates generally to lounge chairs and, more particularly, to a lounge chair incorporating a cavity sized and configured for accommodating a pair of human breasts, as well as for storing loose items ~~breast/storage cavity, a modification to existing loungers. The invention provides a modification which allows a woman to lie face down with her stomach against the lounge and her breasts lying in the provided cavity. A resulting benefit is also a storage cavity for use by male users of the lounge who have no need for a breast cavity.~~

[2.] **Description of Prior Art**

[0002] [A lounge,] Loungers, including those that are portable, foldable or stationary, [is] are known in the prior art. More specifically, the modification is a cavity provided in the backrest section of the lounge which supports the upper torso. This cavity allows for a woman to lie prone with her stomach against the lounge and her breasts lying in the provided cavity. A variety of loungers human body supporting apparatus, including maternity cots and mattresses have been described which are formed with recesses, depressions, cavities or openings to accommodate the abdomen of a pregnant woman. The disadvantages of some of these cots or mattresses are they don't accommodate [solely for] the breasts. It is often difficult for a woman to lie prone on her stomach due to the discomfort caused by having her breasts pressed against her upper body by the rigid[,] surface on which she is lying resting. The pressure applied to her breasts by a rigid surface may be particularly uncomfortable for a woman whose breasts are extra sensitive, such as women with breast implants, naturally full breasts, naturally sensitive breasts or mastectomies.

[0003] [The] U.S. Pat. No. 4,921,301 issued May 1990 to Haynes describes a maternity lounger that has an upper panel of elastic stretching material for expandable support of the abdomen. U.S. Pat. No. 6,588,034 issued July 2003 to Nations reveals a prone pregnancy lounger allowing a pregnant woman to lie prone and providing an expandable cavity for her abdomen. U.S. Pat. No. 5,400,449 issued March 1995 to Satto discloses a prone pregnancy cushion.[.] While these inventions may fulfill their particular objectives, ~~the aforesaid patents do not describe~~ they do not disclose a cavity allowing a non-pregnant woman to lie prone with her breasts ~~lying~~ supported or otherwise comfortably accommodated [in] within a cavity.

[0004] U.S. Pat. No. 5,720,061 issued on February 1998 ~~describes~~ discloses a female anatomical mattress comprised of air chambers and a cavity in the mattress to enable a woman to lie on her stomach with her breasts in the cavity.

[0005] There is an unmet need for lounge chair that incorporates ~~The breast/storage~~ a combination breast accommodating and loose item storage cavity which helps in reducing the compression on a woman's breasts, strain on her back, and provides [affords] a flap for covering [close] the opening of the cavity[.] ~~This said flap allows to enable~~ enable a person to lie on their back, while offer[s]ing an efficient storage space and functional use of the lounger by a man.

[0006] ~~The design of the breast/storage~~ It would be preferably to provide such a cavity ~~provides~~ incorporating a canvas or synthetic material fabric flap covering releasably secured with a hook-and-loop type fastener, such as that sold under the trade name Velcro™ to cover the cavity and thereby ~~which allows for one~~ enable a person to lay comfortably over the cavity on his/her back. It would be further desirable to provide [The] such a cavity ~~could also be used~~ designed or otherwise configured to store loose items [if] while the lounger is being used by a [man] person who has no need for the breast-accommodating feature of the cavity ~~which departs substantially from the prior descriptions of the mentioned inventions.~~

[0007] The breast/storage cavity can ~~by used to modify~~ be incorporated into any of a variety of portable, foldable or stationary loungers. ~~The prior art demonstrates the use of the breast cavity on a foldable lounger.~~

Summary of the Invention

[0008] The present invention is generally directed to a lounge chair incorporating a cavity for supporting, or otherwise accommodating, the breasts of a woman, as well as providing a coverable storage area for loose items, breast/storage cavity, a modification to the lounge, which substantially alleviates the inconveniences and discomfort caused by the compression to the female breasts ~~identified in the known types~~ associated with existing loungers.

[0009] The lounge ~~as known in prior art~~ is comprised of a frame and a fabric cover. The fabric cover consists of sturdy enough material to support the weight of a large person. The breast/storage cavity is a modification to the backrest section of [the] a conventional lounge. The backrest section has provided therein ~~provides~~ a horizontal rectangular opening with a recessed fabric cavity sewn to the seams of said opening. The cavity could be constructed of elastic stretch fabric, netting, canvass or synthetic material fabric. The opening also has a fabric flap sewn to the upper horizontal edge. The adjacent sides of the flap are lined with Velcro™ and the corresponding edges of the opening of the cavity are also lined with Velcro™. When the flap is open and the cavity is exposed it allows for a woman to lay on her stomach with her breasts lying supported or otherwise accommodated in the cavity. When the flap is closed and secured by the Velcro™ closure, it allows for a storage area and a continuous flat surface to lay on ones back. The fabric of the flap would be generally of the same material of the cover fabric of the lounge that would support the weight of a large person.

[0010] The primary function of the breast/storage cavity is to reduce or eliminate breast compression while lying face down on the surface of a lounge. As a means of relief women often contort their bodies to try to compensate for the pressure applied to their breast resulting in strain of the spinal cord. The present invention provides a useful change to the existing invention of the lounge by affording relief to the breasts from the pressure of the body weight and subsequent back strain[.]. The breast/storage cavity provides the comfort to women not previously afforded by the rigid and nonconforming style of the previous designs of loungers. An added benefit is the extra storage space afforded by closing the flap making the invention useful to both women and men.

[0011] It is another objective of the breast/storage cavity to provide a new and improved female friendly lounge made of quality construction.

[0012] An added benefit of the breast/storage cavity is when in the flap closed position it allows a storage area for items such as keys, lotion, wallets etc for use by men.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0013] FIG. 1 – is a side view of the invention

[0014] FIG. 2 – is a view of the embodiment with the flap open

[0015] FIG. 3 – is a side view of the invention with the flap opened.

[0016] FIG. 3a – is a sectioned side view of the invention with the flap tucked.

[0017] FIG. 4 – is a perspective view of the invention of the lounge

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

[0018] [The] In accordance with the present invention, a breast/storage cavity is ~~demonstrated~~ shown in FIGS. 1-4. Referring first to FIGS. 1 and 4, there is shown a lounge. The lounge could be of any number of types of lounges and for demonstrational purposes is illustrated as being a foldable lounge such as is frequently utilized for outdoor activities. The lounge provides a frame of several basic structural elements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. (1) Frame constructed of any rigid material such as plastic, aluminum, wood, steel etc., (2) fabric covering of the frame allowing support of a person laying or sitting on said lounge, (3) arm rests made of rigid material such as plastic, aluminum, wood, steel etc., (4) legs to support the frame of the lounge above the ground, (5) leg support for the arm rests when engaged in the upright position, (6) hinges allowing the illustrated lounge to fold and the legs to retract.

[0019] The breast/storage region consists of a recessed cavity (8) located in the backrest section of a lounge demonstrated in FIG. 1 comprised of a sturdy fabric material surrounding all 4 sides of the cavity with an equally durable fabric cover flap (7). The flap (7) is stitched to the upper horizontal edge of the cavity opening. The adjacent 3 sides are lined with Velcro™ (9) surrounding the outer edge of the flap. The corresponding edges of the opening of the cavity (9a) are also lined with Velcro™ as

demonstrated in FIG. 2. The Velcro™ allows for opening and closing of the cavity without the use of a zipper or other cumbersome fasteners.

[0020] FIG. 3 is a side perspective of the cavity with a view of flap (7a) in the open position.

[0021] FIG. 3a is a sectioned side perspective of the cavity with the flap (7a) tucked in allowing for a woman to lie on her stomach with her breast in the provided cavity.

[0022] FIG. 4 is a front full view perspective of a foldable lounger with the breast/storage cavity